28. **Town Improvement Committees.**—The number of Town Improvement Committees rose from 15 to 19, four new Committees having been established at Kuzhittura, Mavelikara, Haripad and Attungal. The rules for the election of non-official members were revised during the year and the privilege of electing all the non-official members was granted to the towns of Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Shencottah and Kayankulam. It was resolved to have a non-official as President of the Alleppey Committee. Mr. F. F. Mackay, one of the leading merchants of Alleppey, accepted the office and displayed considerable energy and business capacity in the discharge of his duties. Owing to urgent private reasons, he resigned his office. The Government have been able to secure, in his place, the services of Mr. K. A. Krishna Aiyangar, B. A., B. L., a leading lawyer and public-spirited citizen of Alleppey. The Committees began with a balance of Rs. 41,479. Their collections rose from Rs. 63,405 to Rs. 80,224. Including the Government grant of Rs. 43,624, the total amount available for expenditure by the Committees was Rs. 1,65,327, of which a sum of Rs. 1,16,109 was spent, leaving a balance of Rs. 49,218.

29. **Medical.**—Two additional dispensaries were opened during the year, *viz.*, those at Perumbavur and Kuttattukulam, and grants were given to three new Vaidyasalas.

EDUCATION.

30. Education continued to make steady progress. Though the total number of recognised schools showed only a slight increase from 1,763 to 1,771, their strength rose considerably from 2,04,971 to 2,25,341. Taking the school-going population at 15 per cent of the total population, 43·8 per cent received instruction in recognised schools, against 39·8 per cent in 1088. The minimum age for candidates appearing for the Elementary School Leaving Certificate Examination was reduced from 14 to 13 in the case of boys and 12 in the case of girls. The concession of half-fee rates was extended to the Pariah community.

31. The appointment of a Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction was sanctioned, to help him in his office work. An additional Inspector and six additional Assistant Inspectors of Elementary Schools for Boys were appointed, the State being divided into 3 ranges with 6 districts for each range.

32. The B. A. Honors classes in English and History were opened in His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Boys, from the beginning of the current academic year. Sanction was accorded to the addition to the College staff of a third Professor of English and of a Junior Professor and an additional Assistant Professor of History. The new Professor of English is expected to be a specialist in Philology. A suitable person is likely to be selected soon. The salaries of the European and Indian Professors of the College were equalised. The staff of His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Girls was revised.

33. The revision of the staff of Elementary schools was completed. Six more departmental Lower Grade Training schools for male teachers were opened, thus raising the number of these institutions to 10. Orders were passed on the report of the Vernacular Education Committee. While agreeing with the Committee generally in the view that the instruction imparted in Elementary schools admitted of improvement, Government pointed out the necessity for building on the existing foundation, extending the course of the School Leaving Certificate *gradually* from seven to nine years, revising the curriculum, and improving the teaching staff and the efficiency of inspection. The revision of the Inspectorate noted above, and the opening of new Training schools for Elementary school teachers were the outcome of that order. It is contemplated to institute a Vernacular Higher Examination, but to restrict its scope to teachers in recognised schools. The resolutions passed at the Second Conference of the Head Masters of recognised Secondary

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